

Jack D. Moles

Superintendent
402-335-3330

Rick Lester

High School Principal
402-335-3328

Rich Bacon

Athletic Director
Middle School Principal
402-864-4171

Jon Rother

Elementary Principal
402-335-3320



SUPERINTENDENT NOTES by Jack D. Moles



We had an amazing day last Wednesday as Dollar General made a surprise presentation to the elementary school and high school in Tecumseh. Several weeks ago a representative from Dollar General contacted High School Principal Rick Lester and Elementary Principal Jon Rother to arrange a visit from representatives from Dollar General. District Supervisor Sandy Anno and four workers from the local Dollar General first met with our elementary students and staff. One of the local Dollar General workers read a book to the students, then Mr. Rother was invited on stage. He was presented with a gift box and asked to open it and announce what was inside. He opened it and held up a check for \$25,000. It was announced that the check is to go toward supporting literacy efforts in the elementary building. I then took the representatives to the high school to meet with our students and staff. Math teacher Ben Swanson was asked to come up and open up a gift box. This gift box also held a check for \$25,000!

Thus, \$50,000 was provided to Johnson County Central in support of literacy education. What an amazing gift to our school! The neat thing about this is we had no idea it was coming. We did not make a grant application, nor did solicit a contribution—Dollar General simply picked our school as we have a Dollar General in Tecumseh and we are a community that actively supports literacy. I am so thankful for the generosity behind this gift. It is now up to us to make good use of this gift. I have asked Mr. Lester and Mr. Rother to have committees of teachers in their buildings brainstorm some ideas on how to use the funds. My thoughts are that the funds should go toward projects that we were not planning on as we did not have the funds. Very exciting times for the Thunderbirds! Thank you so much, Dollar General!

VETERANS DAY

We will again host Veterans Day programs at both the Tecumseh and Cook sites on Friday, November 11. Both programs will begin at 10:45 a.m. and will feature guest speakers and musical performances by students. Mr. Bret Wellensiek will provide the address at the Cook site, while Mr. Josh Rother will provide the address at the Tecumseh site. Both of these gentlemen were in the U.S. Army and served tours of duty in the Middle East. Mr. Wellensiek is a graduate of Nemaha Valley Schools and Mr. Rother is a graduate of Tecumseh Public Schools. The programs are open to the public. An added feature is that we invite all veterans and their spouses to remain after the programs for lunch, courtesy of the school. If you plan to stay for lunch please call Daisy Mejia at the Tecumseh site (335-3328) or Julie Damme at the Cook site (864-4171).



ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

Last year the Board of Education and Administration went through a goal setting process. We identified many possible goals, then narrowed the list down to six goals we wanted to take on for the current school year. One of the goals was to have annual open houses in our three main buildings. Each year one of the buildings will host an open house, with this year being the elementary in Tecumseh. The open house is open to anyone. The evening will begin with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes group (sponsored by Jon and Maggie Rother) hosting a fund-raiser dinner in the high school cafeteria beginning at 6:00 p.m. Plans are for an “international” menu representing members of the Johnson County Central district. I know some of the offerings will include dishes from at least the following areas: Mexico, South Africa, and Southeast Asia. I am really looking forward to that opportunity.

The open house will begin in the auditorium at 6:45 with an opening provided by Elementary Principal Jon Rother and me. We will then have three sets of breakout sessions in which those attending can choose which session to attend. A sampling of topics that will be covered will be:

- Reading Street
- Thunderbird Way
- Saxon Math
- Early Childhood Education
- Power School
- Special Services (including Special Education, Title I, English Language Learners)

School Finance

We will also provide opportunities to tour the building.

The evening will give attendees the opportunity to get a “behind the scenes” look at what we are doing in the elementary. It will give our staff a chance to show off a little bit of what is being successful and give those attending an opportunity to ask questions. I highly encourage everyone to attend—this is not an event that is solely intended for parents of our students, but instead is for all patrons.

NEWS FROM PRINCIPAL RICK LESTER

Fall is officially here and with that comes the end of our fall sports and the end of the first quarter of the 2016-2017 school year. By the time you receive this newsletter JCC will have already hosted the first parent/teacher conference. If you were unable to attend, please note that your student will be given their report card. Please feel free to call or email your student’s teachers if you have any questions or concerns about your student’s academic progress. I encourage every parent to be involved and show interest in their student’s academic progress. I know we are all busy, but your student’s academic success is linked to your interest. It is a proven fact that the more interest a parent shows in their student’s academics, the better the student’s desire to succeed. You can ask your student about their classes, or a specific project. Help them set aside a specific time or place to study. Listen to their concerns and praise their successes as well as encourage their struggles. You would be amazed how these small gestures will help your student to improve in the classroom. As always, if you have any question please call.

News from Rich Bacon, Middle School Principal & Athletic Director

The first quarter ended on Friday, October 21 and Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on October 27 & 28. Parent-Teacher Conferences provide parents with a unique opportunity to sit down with their child's teachers and discuss their progress in a one on one setting. If you were unable to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences I hope you contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns. I would encourage every parent to sit down with each of their children and discuss their grades and homework, not just at the end of every 9 week quarter, but on a weekly basis. Is your child making adequate progress? Are they working to their ability? Future academic success is dependent on students mastering the work at their current grade level. If your child didn't perform to your expectations or failed a class, parents and their children need to sit down and set goals to improve their academic performance. If your child isn't earning the grades they are capable of, the best solution is usually good old fashioned hard work. Good students pay attention in class and ask questions when they don't understand. Good students use their class time wisely. Good students take homework home and actually study without listening to their iPods or having some other distraction in the room. Usually, there are no quick fixes to solving academic shortcomings, but students who approach their school work with clear cut goals and objectives in mind, generally, are successful academically.

For the 3rd year in a row, Johnson County Central Middle School qualified for the Title 1 Distinguished School Recognition Program. Schools nominated must meet the following National and Nebraska Criteria: 1. Have a poverty rate of 35% or higher for the nominated year; 2. Demonstrate high academic achievement for two or more consecutive years; 3. Meet or exceed state-determined criteria based on two or more consecutive years of achievement data, 4. Maintain or Improve academic achievement standards based on NeSA scores; 5. Look at three years of data to ensure the school is closing the gap between different sub-groups; and 6. Look at student performance data over a 3-year period to determine whether the groups scoring below goal have improved. Nice job students and staff. Keep up the good work.

Congratulations to our recently selected Student Council members: 8th grade – Saylor Rother-president, Calvin Antholz, Hayley Neemann, Freddie Gonzalez; 7th Grade – Shayla Thompson, Madelyn Harrifeld, Ava Berkebile; 6th Grade – Kimy Orozco and Aiden Weber. These students were selected by their peers in a secret-ballot election and will be counted on to provide leadership for the student body.

The Junior High Volleyball, Football and Cross Country teams have concluded their seasons. The football team showed vast improvement throughout the season and finished with a 4 – 2 record, despite being short-handed in every game. The volleyball A-Team finished with a record of 3-9, the B-team finished at 6-3-1 and the C-team finished with a 3-2 record. Outstanding job to the boys and girls who competed for the Thunderbirds this year and Football Coaches Robeson and Novell, Volleyball Coaches Hunzeker and Fricke and Cross Country Coach Weber.

A special thank you goes out to Tom Dieckgrafe and Adam Badberg of the Cook Volunteer Fire Department for speaking to the 4th and 5th grades about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week.

November 2016

J O N R O T H E R
 E M A I L : J O N . R O T H E R @ J C C E N T R A L . O R G
 T W I T T E R : @ J O N R O T H E R

November

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Fri., Nov. 11—1:00 PM
Dismissal. Teacher In-Service.
- Tues. Nov. 15, 6:30 PM—Elementary Open House.
- Wed. Nov. 23—1:00 PM
Dismissal.
- Thurs. Nov. 24—NO SCHOOL.
- Fri. Nov. 25—NO SCHOOL.

Devices, Social Media & the World Wide Web

Like it or not, electronic devices, social media and the Internet are already, and will continue to be, a part of our children's lives. The way us parents talk about these things reminds me of when Atari® came out with new games in the 80's and my friends had portable devices like this little gem →→→→→→→→



Anyway, we all survived and none of us became mindless zombies. But, it didn't happen without a little regulation by the 'ol mom and dad being involved! Some of the same battles go on today that went on 30 years ago. I was always amazed at friends, or friends of a friend, who had a television in their bedroom...with a game console! My mind would race at the possibilities of having my Atari in my room! We also just had the basic channels: 3, 7 and 10. Every now and again, HBO and Showtime would try to entice us neglected children by providing the channel for free for a limited time. They played full movies without commercials! Then came the Disney channel and so on, and so on. I'll quit waxing nostalgia and get to my point. Different decade, new devices, same struggles.

Back to paragraph one; the new technology *will* be a part of our children's lives. We need to teach them how to be responsible with it, and how to regulate their own usage. We want them to be technologically literate, yet we also want them to develop a healthy social/emotional lifestyle. That can't happen without face-to-face interactions with *real* humans, in *real* time, in the *real* world. We also need to help our children learn how to use technology to their advantage; to learn and grow. It seems that we do things a bit in reverse by spending the majority of our time entertaining ourselves and very little time being productive.

Here are some tips that might help:

- Make devices available only during certain times of the day or after certain things have been completed (homework, chores, practicing a sport/instrument, etc.).
- Make devices only available in certain parts of the house. Make it a place that is open to everyone where they can't hide away with their device.
- Limit the amount of time spent on the device.
- Make sure you have access to all your children's devices and accounts. Let them know you'll be checking in.
- Follow your children on their social media.
- Set an age criteria for your children for how old they have to be to have their own device, phone and/or social media accounts. I say, the older the better. But, that will also depend on the maturity level of the student.

Remember, on the Internet, trouble can be just a click away. And don't worry, if you stick to it, the kids will get used to your rules and expectations. They'll make you think that they will be the world's biggest social outcast, but they will survive. Kind of like when everyone was getting Air Jordan shoes and your's truly received a pair of Magic Johnson white, purple and yellow basketball sneakers. I survived. My parents loved me. And, they knew that I didn't have to have everything that everyone else did. I believe they wanted me to retain my individuality. It makes for some great stories, and I'm thankful every day for my parents making some hard decisions for me.



What I'm Reading Now

The World Beyond Your Head: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction by Matthew B. Crawford
The Art and Science of Teaching by Robert J. Marzano
The Halloween Tree by Ray Bradbury

September Thunderbirds of the Month

Kindergarten—Chloe Sedersten, Henry Leuders, Marvin Najera, Wyatt Leuders, Jackson Gottula, Janel Leyva

1st Grade—Abby Burki, Dalton Henderson, Cooper Jones, Braydn Kage, Aaryn Kaster, Reese Badertscher

2nd Grade—Hayleigh Daniels, Max Goracke, Tyler Cruz, Amelia Britt, Anthony Campos, Monica Jimenez, Brayden Beethe, AJ Rautenbach, Harlee Hardesty

3rd Grade—Kaiden Dorn, Madison VanLaningham, Sergio Gurrola, Marisol Mandl, Harley Lubben, Jaquelin Duarte

4th Grade—Lexi Robeson, Salena Conley, Jocelyn Prado, Kali Drake, Madison Jansen, Nolan Wellensiek

5th Grade—Michael Bernadt, Kaitlynn Plager, Sunnie Rother, Ava Buggi, Priscilla Cabrales, Wyatt Ludemann



NOTES FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Olivia Reuter

Register For the December 10th ACT By November 4th

Students who want to take the December 10th ACT test need to register online at <http://www.act.org> by Friday, November 4th to avoid paying a late fee. Fee waivers are available in the high school counselor's office for those students who qualify. Students who need help registering for the ACT should see Mrs. Reuter as soon as possible.

EducationQuest Financial Aid Program Scholarship

Seniors who attended the EducationQuest financial aid program on either October 5th or October 24th will be eligible to register for a \$500 scholarship from the EducationQuest foundation. Students who attended can register for this scholarship by visiting eqf.org/FAPscholarship

Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letters

After you file the FAFSA, you will begin receiving financial aid award letters from the colleges and universities that you listed on your FAFSA. Sometimes, these letters can be confusing. Here is some information on how to make sense of these letters.

This award letter may arrive either by postal mail, email, or online, and spells out the details of your financial aid package from the college(s) to which you applied. If you applied to more than one college, then you will receive more than one award letter. Once all award letters have been presented to you, you'll want to compare them to determine which college is the best option and most affordable, depending upon your budget.

There are four types of financial aid available to students; scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. Scholarships do not have to be repaid, are awarded for various reasons, and may be renewable if you maintain certain criteria such as grade point average. Grants are also free to the student and do not have to be repaid. This award is based on the family's financial need and is determined from the results of the FAFSA. Work-study is the opportunity to be employed by the college so you can earn money while you are a student. Keep in mind that you will be paid as you perform the job, so the money will not be available up front like other types of financial aid. Loans may be offered to you, which is money borrowed to pay for college expenses and will have to be repaid. Some loans are interest-free while you are a student, and other loans have interest that begins accruing as soon as the loan money is put into your account.

The college will usually list their cost of attendance on the award letter, but if not then you can go to their website to determine their total cost of attendance. To better understand if you will have enough money to cover all of your expenses, you'll need to understand direct versus indirect costs of college. As you probably know, you will be charged for tuition and fees, and you will have to buy or rent textbooks and supplies. If you will be living in campus housing, you'll also be charged for room and board (which is your campus meal plan). Those expenses are considered your direct costs of attending college. Many colleges will include an estimate for indirect costs as well. Indirect costs are an estimate of the amount of money a student may potentially spend throughout the school year on transportation, personal items, eating out, etc. You will have to determine if you would like to cover these indirect costs with your financial aid, money from savings, or if you will work while going to college.

The college(s) may not be able to cover all of the costs for a student; this is referred to as "gap" or "unmet need." In this case, loans are offered to the student first, and then to parents if there are still remaining costs to cover. Your other choices are to set up a payment plan with the college, take out an alternative loan, or perhaps choose a college that is more affordable, based on your financial situation.

After you receive your award letter(s), have compared packages (if you are entertaining offers from more than one college), and decided on a particular school, you will be asked to accept or reject each type of financial aid presented to you. You will then need to sign and submit that copy and return it to the college's financial aid department, either via postal mail or online. The money that you have accepted will go to cover your direct expenses at the college..

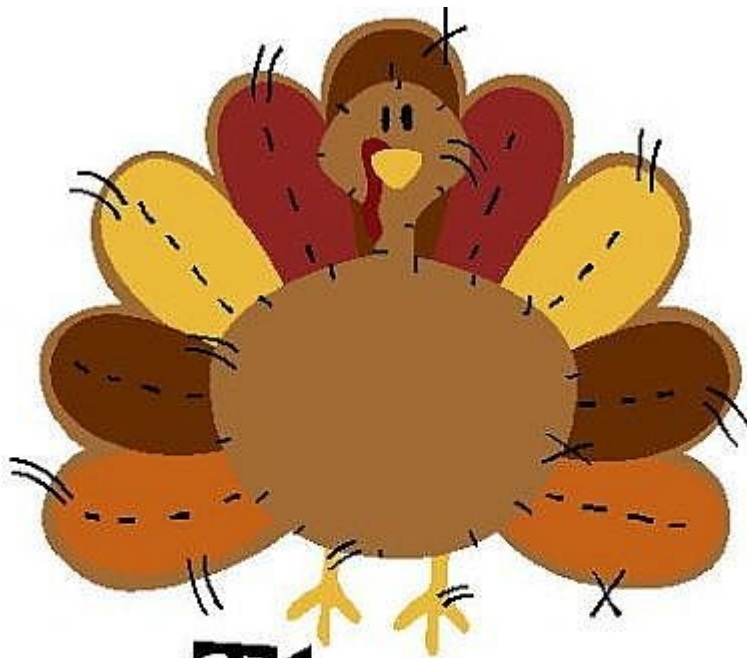
Remember to read through all paperwork received from the college and take action on anything that requires a response.

Creating An FSA ID

All students who fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.gov need to have an FSA ID. Also, one of their parents must have one as well. After a student and one of his or her parents have created an FSA ID, make sure to write these IDs down or save them somewhere where you can easily access them when it is time to fill out the FAFSA. Creating an FSA ID is not difficult and can be done online. To create an ID, students and parents

Scholarship Quest Nebraska Scholarship Search

High school juniors and seniors are encouraged to use the Scholarship Quest scholarship search tool provided by Education Quest. After a student puts in their basic information and answer a variety of questions, Scholarship Quest searches through over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships to see which ones the student qualifies for. To access this tool to help find money for college, visit <https://www.educationquest.org/resources/scholarshipquest/>



Happy Thanksgiving

**JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
2016-2017 FIRST QUARTER
HONOR ROLL WITH DISTINCTION**



FRESHMEN

Genevie Allen
Carrie Beethe *
Eli Waring *
Jacob Wolter

SOPHOMORES

Sarai Ares
Joshua Bailey
Kole Kleespies *
Corral McClintock

JUNIORS

Nicholas Goracke
Sierra McClintock *

SENIORS

Marissa Borrenpohl *
Samantha Francois
Keaton Kleespies
Sopha Kongmanyvong*

* = Earned All A's This Quarter

JOHNSON COUNTY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
2016-2017 FIRST QUARTER
HONOR ROLL



FRESHMEN

Samuel Buss
Gabriel DeFreece
Tanner Kerner
Manuel Ramirez

SOPHOMORES

Connor Bartels
Tyler Bartels
Erika Cruz
Alexis Graham
Andrea Graziani
Elissa Justus
Nadia Klein
Diego Reyes
Jordan Rodriguez
Simon Rother
Faith Sahs
Tyler Sedersten

JUNIORS

Gabriela Alvarado
Johan Arellano
Charla Eggleston
Johnny Kongmanyvong
Madison Moran
Macey Pietzyk
Tyllar Roesener
Hannah Swanda

SENIORS

Schylar DeFreece
Rebecca Hernandez
Erin Hunzeker
Elizabeth Kessler
Sara Kettelhake
Courtney Klaasmeyer
Alejandra Rojas
Samuel Saldivar
Mark Splichal
Angelica Wellman

Go Thunderbirds!

What does it mean to be a Thunderbird? Our students have great pride in being Thunderbirds. To begin each year, we review and practice the Thunderbird Way: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be a Learner. We also talk about what it means to be a good Thunderbird and citizens in our communities. Below is an example of a Tagxedo graphic from one of the classrooms. The graphic is filled with adjectives describing the characteristics of what students believe a good Thunderbird should demonstrate every day. These posters than hang in the teachers classrooms as a visual reminder of our expectations of them-but more importantly-their expectations of themselves.



Bullying Prevention Unit

In the month of October, students in the elementary have begun their Bullying Prevention Unit, a prosocial/emotional program created by Second Step. Weekly, students watch short videos that we discuss to learn more about: What is Bullying? How can one Prevent Bullying? What should a person do if they are Bullied?

Bullying is a very strong word. It is important that students and their families understand what bullying is and what to do if their student is having issues at school. Through lessons, students learn that bullying is a negative behavior that happens over and over, is done on purpose, is something they have not been able to get to stop, and is unfair and one-sided. A focus of The Thunderbird Way is to teach and reinforce Safe and Respectful behaviors among our students, which are also concepts reinforced through the bullying prevention unit. The expectations of respect and safety with our students helps to create a learning atmosphere for all students at JCC. Visit with your student about your expectations of respect and safety as well. Together we have the power to prevent bullying with kind words and actions. For more information and bullying prevention resources you can visit the national bullying prevention website at:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/> or to learn more about the Second Step bullying prevention curriculum visit: <http://www.cfchildren.org/>.

**Johnson County Central Middle School Honor Roll
First Quarter 2016-2017**

Grade 8

Calvin Antholz (All A's)

Kenia Barrientos
Dalton Berkebile
Devin Conley
Chloe Curry

***Jason Kettelhake**

Kylie Kleespies
Katie Little
Ashlei McDonald
Morgan Moran

Hayley Neemann

***Zadie Plager**

Saylor Rother (All A's)

Ruby Valles

Grade 7

***Kaita Baird**

Logan Barras
Ava Berkebile

Madelyn Harrifeld (All A's)

Treyton Holthus
Mathew Jansen
Vanessa Jimenez
Dakotah Ludemann

Lane Othmer

Madison Pingel

Emma Straka

***Emma Swanda**

Emma Walters

Isabella Wolter (All A's)

Francisco Xayaphonesongkham

Grade 6

Dani Andersen (All A's)

***Katelyn Beethe**

Mazzie Benedict

Erika Cabrales (All A's)

Karen Canseco Chavez

Rita Ceballos

Tucker Drake

***Anzel du Preez**

***MacKinze Gordon**

***Jacob Graham**

Christian Harrifeld

Hayden Huskey (All A's)

***Jacob Liscomb**

Danielle Lueders

***Chayce Oenbring**

Kimberly Orozco

Cole Robeson (All A's)

***Cameron Schuster**

Brandon Speckmann

Alixandria Swanson

Aiden Weber (All A's)

Honor Roll students have no grade lower than a B.

*Honor Roll with distinction is based on student's having all A's with only one B

JCC ELE- MENTARY OPEN HOUSE

WHEN

**November 15th, 2016
6:30pm - 8:30pm**

WHERE

**Tecumseh Site Elementary
358 N 6th St., Tecumseh NE**

**FEATURING PRESENTATIONS • Accelerated Math/Reading • The
Thunderbird Way • Reading Street • Special Services • Saxon
Math • PowerSchool**

WWW.JCCENTRAL.ORG

**ALL COMMUNITY
WELCOME**

**REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED**

**Meet the staff, find out
what's going on in OUR
school.**



4th Grade News
Homestead National Monument
By: Mrs. Naber

Have you ever thought what it would have been like to homestead a piece of land in the state of Nebraska in the 1800's? Our 4th graders traveled to Homestead National Monument in Beatrice to learn what it was like to live the life of a homesteader. Many of the students decided it was much easier living today than it would have been a long time ago.

On our visit to Homestead we learned what the requirements were for homesteading a tract of land. We were shown a video that explained that early settlers could claim free tracts of land for a small registration fee. Claiming the land was simple, but "proving up" when the time came was not so easy. In order to "prove up" a homesteader had to improve the land by building a home and making a living off the land in some way. This did not always prove to be a simple task. Many of the homesteaders failed and lost their claims.

We were able to spend quite a while exploring the museum of homesteading pioneers at the park. It was amazing how the settlers completed their daily tasks. I think the students came to the conclusion that life today is much simpler for us than it was for the early pioneers.

The walk across the prairie was wonderful. It was a cool brisk day, but we were able to see what the prairie was really like when the first settlers came across Nebraska.

One of the highlights of the day was learning about how the Native Americans used the buffalo. The Native Americans used every part of the buffalo. Not only was the buffalo used for the meat, but the bones were used as tools to dig with, the horns as spoons or cups, the hides as blankets, and the stomach as a boiling pot. Ask a 4th grader for some other uses of a buffalo.

The pioneers had many chores that needed to be done on the homestead. We ran a relay race which included many of the chores that the children helped with. We collected eggs, helped with laundry, collected corn cobs for the fire, helped build fence, and churned butter. It was a fun way to see how things have changed over the years.

The final activity of the day was identifying skins and skulls of animals that are common to Nebraska. Many of our students knew exactly what animals the skins and skulls came from.

Our trip to Homestead National Monument was a great way to start our study of the state of Nebraska. We have a great deal to learn about where our state started and where we are today.

"High School Social Sciences Newsletter
Mr. Kuhl

We are getting into the grind portion of first semester! That means it is important to keep plugging away – for both students and educators. In my social studies classes we are going to be getting into the meat & potatoes of the first semester topics very soon!

In Geography, this means looking at the United States & Canada. We will spend a substantial amount of time discussing the United States, its people, cultures, ethnic groups and politics – not to mention all of its great physical aspects!

In World History, we recently finished a chapter over Islam. I found it very important to spend a good chunk of time on this chapter due to the fact that not many students know a whole lot about Islam, other than what they see on the news. I think the students really enjoyed this chapter – our next topic will be the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages will focus on the Black Death, absolute monarchies and also the Holy Crusades of the late Middle Ages.

In Military History we are currently discussing the Punic Wars that took place in the late B.C.'s between Carthage and Rome. I have been spicing this unit up a bit with various projects like model making and a video project. Things are going very well in this new course."

6th Grade Math & Science **By Myranda Lewis**

The 6th graders are definitely putting in some hard work this school year so far! In math, we have been reviewing and learning a lot of different concepts, like, place value to the trillions, histograms, negative numbers, order of operations, and many more! This group of students is very involved in learning math and is always participatory in the learning process! I hope that this continues throughout the entire school year and that their enthusiasm for math doesn't diminish anytime soon!

In science, we have discussed food chains, food webs, energy pyramids, organisms, biotic and abiotic factors, the five levels of environmental organization, producers, consumers, and decomposers, and many other topics. The students are very excited about science have been able to experience their science as well as learn about it. Right now, the students are learning about forces, gravity, and Newton's First Law. The students got to experience those topics through station rotations exploring different ways forces work on objects. The students were required to write an observation about each of the stations before doing it and then they got to "play" and learn with the objects. After they worked with the station for a bit, they had to write a summary of what happened and why they thought it happened that way. The responses that came about from this activity were wide in range, but very thought provoking. We broke down each station as a group afterwards and learned about the "whys".

The 6th graders have had a wonderful first quarter in math and science and we are hoping to continue that trend throughout the second quarter as well as the rest of the year! We will continue to work on being prepared for class and will strive to do our best on each and everything that we do!

Third Grade News **By Robin Heidemann**

If you stepped into the third grade classroom you would think you were strolling along the edge a trickling stream. But as you turn your head to look for the water you would gaze upon a tower garden. Mrs. Hodges and her high school classes have been gracious enough to teach us a few things about aeroponics (the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil).

We have planted our seeds in a rockwool and covered them with vermiculite to keep the seeds from blowing out. Nutrients were placed in the water and now we are waiting for our seeds to germinate. We are very excited about watching our plants grow without soil. Discovering that seeds are living organisms with a food source and small leaf inside the protective seed coat has been fascinating.

Third grade brings about many changes. We are busy learning to write in cursive as well as spending time in the computer lab keyboarding. Lessons and games provided in the program keep us engaged and eager to learn how to type.

We continue to look forward to all the many activities and learning opportunities that third grade brings our way.

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING

LINSEY MEINTS

We have had a great start to the 2016-2017 school year. Both the 7th and 8th grade students have just finished their unit on fiction and nonfiction. We will be moving on to short stories next. At the end of October I took a group of students to the movie theater in Auburn to see *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. *This is an awesome opportunity for students to see how a book can be changed for a movie script. In order for students to participate in this activity they were required to read the book and then take a test on it. There were 19 middle school students who went to the movie.*

I was impressed with the students success getting their AR point during the first quarter. Students are beginning to realize that they like to read when they have the right book. They are going to continue needing AR points for each quarter. I try to encourage them to read at least 20-30 minutes every night as well as the 15 minutes they are given during STAR time. Reading at least 30 minutes every day will help them achieve their reading goals.

Journalism – by Kris Farris

This past summer, my youngest daughter hosted her ten-year class reunion at our home. She spent days prior to the reunion creating class trivia questions, gathering old photos, and digging through boxes of items I had packed away when she had officially “left the nest.” Watching close school friends connect again after ten years was fun; with each classmate arrival, the volume of chatter would rise and the conversations typically started with, “So what are you doing now?” After that, awkward silences began to occur...until the old high school yearbooks came out.

The moment the books were distributed, memories from some of the best years of their lives came to life. Stories and laughter emerged as the class recalled moments from high school that they had forgotten. It was then I realized the importance of being the instructor of our journalism class. The value of the JCC high school yearbook is not to be overlooked. A yearbook is treasured by many when it is first received, and it is a source to the past for nostalgic graduates. The book highlights accomplishments, embodies the finest memories, and captures the essence of the student body all in one hardcover book.

Speaking from experience, over the past 30 years, yearbooks have rapidly evolved due to the introduction of new technology. During my high school days, yearbooks were typed on typewriters, photos were developed in dark rooms, and pictures were cropped using croppers and grease pencils. Today, our yearbook is digitally created using the computer and the latest digital design program. The production of the 2017 yearbook marks the 10th anniversary of the Johnson County Central Public Schools, and our student staff has decided to capitalize on the anniversary by selecting the theme “Take Ten.” We are excited about the opportunity to produce the tenth edition of the JCC yearbook and are committed to making it the best book published in the history of JCC.

In order for us to reach our goal of creating an outstanding yearbook, we need your assistance. As a way to include all students in the yearbook, we are asking that both students and parents upload their favorite school event pictures to our website. If you've taken a picture that you would love to see in the yearbook, we would love to see it! Submitting a photo is easily done by clicking on the community upload link on the JCC website and entering the password “Tbirds”. Pictures can also be emailed to my email address.

Another way to help us achieve success with the 2017 yearbook is by BUYING a yearbook. Our Early Bird Sale will start in December, and this year, for your convenience, the books will be available not only at school for purchase, but also on-line through the school website. Your purchase helps ensure that our journalism program can continue at Johnson County Central.

So many great things are happening within our school, and my staff is working hard to capture every important moment of the school year. We look forward to seeing your reaction to our work and making future class reunions a success.

Preschool-Tecumseh Site

Preschool is having a busy and productive new school year. We have many new additions to our room which include our teacher aides Mrs. Pollard and Mrs. Klein. They are a joy to have in our classroom each day! We have also added a few little fuzzy friends, Cat and Snickers who are our classroom Guinea Pigs. The students have really enjoyed taking care of their daily needs of feeding them and have also been spending lots of time reading to them. The preschoolers have been very attentive pet owners!

As we prepare for the upcoming holiday months, please be sure to continue checking your students' folders. There will be many announcements coming up on the Holiday Program, upcoming breaks, and other events in our class. Also please keep up the hard work at home and thank you for all that you do to help your students' continue to grow as they are entering their early school years. Keep up the great work and practice!

Mrs. Hein



Hello Everyone!

The K-3 students have physical education every day. Studies show that it is good for the students to get exercise every day as it helps students improve their academics. I give the kids homework every weekend to get outside and play. They tell me I give the best homework! The students go through daily exercises and I choose a different student every day to lead them through those exercises that include push-ups, sit ups, grasshoppers, heel touches and jumping jacks. We have been working on improving locomotor skills such as running, jumping, hopping, galloping, and skipping. We will be starting our unit on throwing and catching next week!

I have the freshman and upper classmen every day this year and they love their PE time. We just ended our volleyball unit and started throwing the Frisbee around this week. Look for us to get into tennis, ping pong, badminton, pickleball, and basketball later this semester.

I also started teaching a freshman health class this year and it's a lot of fun to be back in the classroom. The students enjoy and are taking an interest in the subject. We just finished up our testing on mental health and will be talking about nutrition, emotion and physical health later this semester.

Garrett Collin

Parents and Guardians of JCC Students

The ESU #4 Health Van will be coming to JCC Schools the last weeks of November to do health evaluations on our students. They will be doing hearing and vision evaluations, dental assessments, checking students for head lice/nits, body mass index evaluations., and blood pressure evaluations on our older students. After your child has been assessed, they will bring an assessment sheet home from ESU Health Van Staff. The Health Van staff will include recommendations for your student based on their assessment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Kuhl at 402-335-3320 .

Business Course Happenings By Angie Huskey

Accounting I: Our accounting students began the year learning the basic accounting equation and analyzing transactions into debit and credit parts, recording entries into journals and ledgers and understanding cash control systems (such as checking accounts, bank reconciliation, and electronic banking).

Personal Finance: In personal finance, our students have been learning about planning personal finances. We are finishing up the introductory unit, which provided students with the foundation for personal financial planning. Students learned how to create a financial plan, discussed the relationship between career choices and financial planning (including forming resumes and cover letters), and learned about various money management strategies and how to create and follow a budget. Currently, we are moving our emphasis into Banking and Credit and will focus our attention on loans, lines of credit, credit cards, banking, and housing choices.

Information Technology Applications: Throughout the first quarter of Information Technology Applications, our students have focused the majority of their attention on learning to create, format, and edit a variety of business documents using Microsoft Word 2013. Students learned about business fliers, MLA and APA documentation styles when writing formal research papers, and creating a variety of business letters with letterhead. We will be moving into Excel and learning to create, use, and manipulate spreadsheets with various types of charts and graphs during the next couple of weeks.

Marketing: The beginning units of marketing have focused on defining marketing and discussing its critical role for business in today's society, along with focusing on specific ways in which people, business, and society are affected by marketing decisions. In addition, the economic factors and the basic ways that businesses create an effective marketing strategy, while focusing on their consumers and competitors have all been essential learnings of the first quarter of class. The students are becoming very well versed in understanding how marketing plays a role in all of our daily lives.

Management: Business, the environment, and learning about the various forms of ownership of businesses have been the unit topics in our management course. Students are able to recognize the difference between proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations and distinguishing between the various management differences associated with these types of business ownership.

Business Law: Our laws and constitutional rights have been the focus of the most recent unit of study in business law. Included in these studies have been: ethics and our local, state, and federal court system.

Thanks for an awesome fall season!

T-bird Booster Club

The Booster Club just wrapped up the fall sports season concession stands and would like to thank everyone for their contributions. Lots of parents volunteered to work in the concession stand and their donation of time and effort is much appreciated. All money earned will go toward supporting our JCC athletic programs. We offer a special thank you to Athletic Director Rich Bacon for his advice and support, Ashley Juilfs for her assistance in helping set up, and JoAnn Gadeken for helping with ordering and making the sloppy joe meat. Volleyball concessions were managed by Lisa Beethe and Kelli Dorsey, football concessions were managed by Becky Plager and Maggie Rother.

The winter sports season kicks off in November and we will continue to need your support. If you would like to select the date and time you would like to work, please email rich.bacon@jccentral.org. We could also use assistance with scheduling, ordering, and managing the winter season concession stands. Please attend the next Booster Club meeting on November 7th at 6:00 to offer your assistance and expertise where it is most needed.

Building Life Skills in Horizon II

By Reid Genuchi

Since the beginning of the school year the students have been working on life skills they will encounter as they get older. The students are learning that as they get older they will have more responsibilities. To name some of the responsibilities they have been learning and experiencing are getting to work on time, making the food you eat correctly, and keeping up with the cleaning in their house.

The students are working hard to improve in these areas now because they have found out it will be easier if they start to get into a routine now. Some of the tasks the students work on are vacuuming, sweeping, setting a table, wiping tables down and among many others. The students have understood getting up for a job quite easily because they compare it to getting up for school daily. They understand if they don't get to work on time there could be consequences from their employer. The students have been working on following the steps in recipes and understanding why you need to measure out the ingredients. The goal here is to be able to make simple dishes at school and to use the skills they learn at school back home.

Fifth Grade News **By Mrs. Tubbesing**

The fifth graders have had an awesome start this fall! They have been working hard on the NESa science standards which have been introducing them to a broad number of science concepts. So far this school year, they have studied life science. The students planted bean seeds to learn about the parts of the plants and why each section of the plant is necessary for the plants survival. Currently, the students are trying to establish a mini meal worm farm. The purpose of this activity is to watch the mealworms go through their life cycle. During the first semester, the fifth graders have chosen a dinosaur to research. The students will also make a replica of the dinosaur and give a short presentation to their peers.

In math, the fifth grade students continue to review previous skills learned as they are introduced to new concepts. Currently they are mastering long division. In the near future, they will work with geometry, fractions, and percents.

Some of the language arts activities are very challenging for the fifth graders. As they continue to learn about subjects and predicates, they also are introduced to harder language skills such as: compound and complex sentences. In addition, each week they write to prompts that help them analyze and synthesis the week's reading selection. Then at the end of the week their writing test pushes them to use their higher-order thinking skills.

The fifth graders have been taking part in the DARE program that is taught by Deputy Lyon since September 2. Every week, Deputy Lyon teaches each fifth grade class for about an hour in the area of drug and alcohol prevention. Graduation for DARE will be December 6, at 2:30 p.m. It will be held in the middle school's new gym. DARE graduation is opened to the public and parents and grandparents are encouraged to attend.

School Improvement - School Accreditation

We are very excited to report that Johnson County Central Public Schools received the AdvancED distinction of accreditation for a five-year term. This follows the completion of the steps in the school improvement cycle and the results from the external team review in held in April 2016.

For four days in April, Johnson County Central Public Schools hosted an external team for the AdvancED school improvement review. This team composed of Jerry Morgan, a Field Consultant and Facilitator from Indiana, SuAnn Witt, State Erate Coordinator from the Nebraska Department of Education, Karen Flora, a Field Consultant from Indiana, Sheree Person-Pandil, an educational consultant from the Educational Service Unit #3 in Omaha, and Dr. Christopher Prosocki, PK-12 Principal from Diller-Odell Public Schools. The team conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the school district through 78 formal interviews, 35 classroom observations, a review of diagnostic instruments, a self-assessment report, and data and evidence presented by the district personnel. The team examined the school's adherence to the five AdvancED standards including: Standard 1-Purpose and Direction, Standard 2-Governance and Leadership, Standard 3-Teaching and Learning, Standard 4-Resources and Support Services, and Standard 5-Using Results for Continuous Improvement. When the team concluded their visit, they shared their findings with school board members, administrators, faculty, and staff. This report was then sent to the AdvancED Accreditation Commission with a recommendation for accreditation.

The review team made the following conclusions from their visit.

- There is a sense of community, trust, and pride from all stakeholders. They stated we have a welcoming and inviting environment, and there is an importance and focus on building relationships with students.
- The system has a vast array of data in support of their school improvement efforts. The school improvement goal to "improve reading comprehension through the direct and explicit teaching of vocabulary." Test scores reveal a significant increase in reading comprehension. The external team was impressed with the vocabulary that students used to express themselves during interviews.
- The district identified the need for a system-wide instructional model that will result in differentiation and challenging learning opportunities for all students. The district adopted the Marzano Instructional Model and will be receiving training and implementing the program.
- The system leadership is committed to a long-term improvement process.
- The system provides a current and fully functional technology infrastructure and high qualified support staff to meet the needs of staff and students.
- The school board maintains a distinction between its roles and responsibilities and those of the system and school leadership. The board is a cohesive unit and complies with all policies, procedures, laws, and regulations.
- Classrooms are well-managed and supportive of learning.
- The teachers have established a safe learning environment and were continually monitoring the instruction of the lessons and student progress.
- Students were observed being actively engaged in hands-on learning experiences.

The review team identified two improvement priorities that must be addressed and reported on over the next two years.

- Develop and implement a systemic plan to systematically train professional and support staff in analyzing student data to monitor and adjust curriculum and instructional practices.
- Document practices and procedures that guide the development, review, and implementation of continuous improvement and system-wide processes, ensuring that the process includes participation from all stakeholder groups.

AdvancED recently developed a framework to describe the results of an accreditation review. This is called the Index of Education Quality or IEQ. The IEQ comprises three domains of performance: the impact of teaching and learning on student performance, the capacity of leadership to guide the institution toward the achievement of its vision and strategic priorities, and the use of resources to support and optimize learning. Subsequent actions and evidence for improvement will raise the IEQ score.

Johnson County Central's IEQ as compared to the AdvancED Network

	JCC External Review IEQ Score	AdvancED Network Average
Overall Score	301.46	278.34
Teaching and Learning Impact	291.43	268.94
Leadership Capacity	318.33	292.64
Resource Utilization	302.50	283.23

From the chart above it is evident that Johnson County Central received scores above the AdvancED average and those scores may increase once the improvement priorities are addressed. As we celebrate this accomplishment, we are looking at data and determining our next school improvement goal and the next steps in achieving that goal.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAMS

**Sponsored by
Johnson County Central Public Schools**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016

**10:45 A.M.
two programs at:**

**HIGH SCHOOL GYM in TECUMSEH
or
MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM in COOK**

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS:

**Mr. Josh Rother at the Tecumseh site
Mr. Bret Wellensiek at the Cook site**

Student musical presentations at both sites

PUBLIC IS INVITED!

**ALL VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES ARE INVITED TO EAT LUNCH AT THE
SCHOOLS FOLLOWING THE PROGRAMS. MEAL IS PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE
BY THE SCHOOL. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU PLAN TO STAY FOR
LUNCH.**




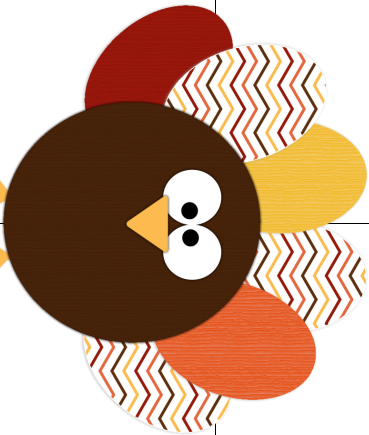
Johnson County Central Lunch Menu

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Chicken Nuggets Corn Casserole Fruit & Veggie & Bar Milk	2 Chili / Crackers Cinnamon Roll Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	3 Cheeseburger w/ Bun Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	4 Sloppy Nacho Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	5
6	7 Crispy Chicken Wrap Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	8 Pork Steak Mashed Potatoes/Gravy Fruit & Veggie Bar	9 Taco Salad Black Beans Salsa Fruit & Veggie Bar Bread stick Milk	10 Ham & Turkey Sub Pasta Salad Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	11 Creamed Chicken/ Bis- Cake Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	12
13	14 BBQ Meat Balls Mac & Cheese Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	15 Chicken Patty/ WG Bun Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	16 Sliced Turkey Mashed Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Dessert Milk	17 Chicken Noodle Soup Cheese bread Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	18 Chicken Qusadilla Spanish Rice Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	19
20	21 Beef Fingers Cheesy Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	22 Sh. BBQ Pork/ WG Bun Fruit & Veggie Bar Cookie Milk	23 P & J Sandwich Fruit & Veggie Bar Scooby Snacks Milk	24 No School Thanksgiving Break	25 No School Thanksgiving Break	26
27	28 Chicken Nuggets Potatoes Fruit & Veggie Bar Milk	29 Hot Dog WG Bun Elem. Chili Dog HS Baked Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar	30 Spaghetti/ Meat Sauce Green Beans Fruit & Veggie Bar Dinner Roll Milk	<p>Important Reminders: Menu is subject to change</p> <p>"This Instituto IISA Equal Opportunity Provider"</p>		



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 C-2 Sub-districts VB	2 School Picture Retakes @ both Sites	3 CLASS Leadership Conf. @ Auburn HS 9:00 am Annual Pie Night @ Tecumseh 6:30 pm	4 VB District Finals HS Vocal Music @ Barbershop Workshop UNL Red Letter Day	5 C.N.A. Clinicals Aca Deca @ Pius X Scrimmage 8:30 am
6 	7 Jr./Sr. High Conference Honor Choir @ Yutan 12:00 pm	8 County Coalition Meeting 8:30 am	9 District Livestock Judging @ Beatrice 8:30 am Board of Education Meeting 7:30 pm	10 Regional Coalition Meeting @ Lincoln 8:30 am	11 School out at 1:00 Teacher Workday 8th Grade @ Sportsmanship for Life Pep Rally UNL 10:00 am	12 C.N.A. Clinicals
13	14 Physiology Class @ Doane College 8:30 am	15 Aca Deca @ Strategic Air & Space Museum 9:30 am Tecumseh Site Elem. Open House 6:00 pm	16 8th Gr. To SCC Lincoln Campus Visit Early Outreach College Planning Pres @ JCC HS Music Conv. & All-	17 Music Convention & All-State @ UNL Sportsmanship & Leadership Summit @ Fremont	18 Music Convention & All-State @ UNL SCC Discovery Day @ SCC Lincoln One Act Public Perf. @ Elem. Aud. 7:00 pm	19 C.N.A. Clinicals
20 C.N.A. Clinicals	21 One Act Performance For Elem. @ Elem Aud. 2:45 pm	22 UNL Path to Success Conf. @ UNL 8:30 am Peru State College Group Visit 10:00 am JH B BB @ JCC MS	23 School out at 1:00 Thanksgiving Break Begins	24 NO SCHOOL	25 NO SCHOOL	26 C.N.A. Clinicals
27	28 Classes Resume V G&B BB @ JCC HS 6:00 & 7:30 pm	29 JH B BB @ JCC MS 4:30 pm County Coalition Banquet @ Tecumseh Comm. Bldg. 6:30 pm	30 ASVAB Testing for Juniors @ HS Gym 8:30 am			

Johnson County Central Public Schools

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Phone: 402 335-3320 Superintendent @ Tecumseh
402 335-3328 Principal @ Tecumseh
402 864-2024 Elementary Office @ Cook
402 864-4171 Principal @ Cook
402 864-4181 MS Office @ Cook
Web Site www.jccentral.org

This newsletter is produced monthly to inform parents, district patrons and others about school events, classroom events, and student achievements in the classroom and extra curricular activities. This information is submitted by faculty and staff members. Information may be submitted to offices at Tecumseh and Cook.

The school reserves the right to edit information in the interest of space and content.

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Non-Discrimination

It shall be the policy of Johnson County Central Public Schools to not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for discrimination concerns. Inquiries concerning any of the above, or Title IX and Rehabilitation Act Regulations (504) should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools, 358 N 6th Street, Tecumseh, NE 68329; (402)335-3320.

Child find

Children that are birth to 5 years old who are experiencing problems with speech language, cognitive, emotional and/or physical development or have a disability can receive services through Early Childhood Education Services.

If interested or in need of more information please contact Rebecca Kling, Special Education Coordinator or Jack Moles, Superintendent at 402-335-3320.

**Early dismissal at 1:00 pm on
Wednesday, November 23rd, for
Thanksgiving Break.**

**Classes resume on Monday, November
28th.**

ENJOY!

